

join with our Israeli friends to celebrate the remarkable story of Israeli independence, we take special pride in the role our nation has played and continues to play in supporting Israeli security and in promoting the special bilateral relationship from which our nations have derived great and mutual benefit.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUNICE W. JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eunice W. Johnson, a nationally known business leader and humanitarian. On May 2, 2004, she will address the 129th Commencement Exercises at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama.

Eunice Johnson is a graduate of Talladega College with a B.A. degree in sociology and a minor in art. She grew up in Selma, Alabama, where her father, Dr. Nathaniel Walker, was a physician, and her mother, Mrs. Ethel Walker, was the principal of the high school and taught education and art at the college level at Selma University. Following graduation from Talladega College, Eunice Johnson earned her Master's degree in social work from Loyola University in Chicago. She also studied journalism at Northwestern University and interior decorating at the Ray School of Design.

Mrs. Johnson is the secretary-treasurer of Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., which was founded by her husband, John H. Johnson, in 1942. Johnson Publishing Company publishes *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines and is the largest Black-owned publishing company in the world. Since 1961, she has been producer and director of *Ebony Fashion Fair*, the world's largest traveling fashion show, which has donated over \$49 million to the United Negro College Fund and other African-American charities. Out of her involvement in *Ebony Fashion Fair*, Mrs. Johnson created *Fashion Fair Cosmetics*, which is a world leader in cosmetics and skin care for women of color.

Eunice Johnson has been an active member of many community organizations in the Chicago area where she lives. She has received the Outstanding Black College University Alumnus Award from the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association and the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Talladega College and Shaw University. She is a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta and a member of the Advisory Board of the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

I am proud to recognize one of the most distinguished and successful alumni of Talladega College, Eunice W. Johnson, as she addresses the graduating class of 2004, and appreciate the House's attention to this important matter today.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE AND GERMAINE BRIANT

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George and Germaine Briant, of

Hammond, LA. George and Germaine were married on July 20, 1921. Having spent over 80 years together, I am proud to honor George and Germaine as Louisiana's longest married couple.

George Briant is a World War I veteran. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the French Legion of Honor due to his outstanding service to this country. Following in his father's footsteps, their son George fought in World War 11. In 1945 at the age of 25, George was killed during the filming of a movie while on leave from his military duties.

On February 14, 2003, the Briants were recognized by the Louisiana Family Forum as the longest married couple in Louisiana. A dinner was also held in honor of the Briants at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion last year. George and Germaine currently reside at Live Oak Village in Hammond, where they are often seen happily spending all of their time together.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend and honor the marriage of George and Germaine Briant. They serve as living examples of lifelong commitment, love, courage, and faith. Again, congratulations to George and Germaine on 80 years of marriage. I wish you a very Happy Anniversary.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel and to pay tribute to those who have given their lives for the achievement of the country's independence and its continued existence.

Israel's Independence Day comes just 8 days after the Holocaust Remembrance Day which is the day that has been set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for contemplating what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign. Lost 2 thousand years earlier, Jewish independence was restored in 1948 with the establishment of the State of Israel. Independence Day is a celebration of the renewal of the Jewish state and allows the Jewish people to continue development of their distinctive religion and culture.

However, their independence has come at a price. The State of Israel has faced obstacles and challenges to its very survival, with conventional military attacks leading the way to suicide bombers who have killed innocent Israeli men, women, and children. Through these adversities, Israel has endured with continued strength, conviction, and faith. As the only democracy in the region, it serves as a model for its neighbors and provides hope for the future. As the United States had to face the harsh realities of terrorism following the unthinkable attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, the bond between our nations has never been stronger.

Mr. Speaker, the commemoration of the independence of Israel is an important reminder of the contributions of Israel to democracy worldwide. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Israel's independence

and to pay tribute to the fallen men, women, and children that have died in Israel's continued struggle for independence and democracy.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today, we continue the crusade to ensure that this tragedy is never forgotten. This 89th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is an emotional time. The loss of life experienced by so many families is devastating. But, in the face of the systematic slaughter of 1.5 million people, the Armenian community has persevered with a vision of life and freedom.

Armenian Americans are representative of the resolve, bravery, and strength of spirit that is so characteristic of Armenians around the world. That strength carried them through humanity's worst: Upheaval from a homeland of 3,000 years, massacre of kin, and deportation to foreign lands. That same strength gathers Armenians around the world to make certain that this tragedy is never forgotten.

Without recognition and remembrance, this atrocity remains a threat to nations around the world. I've often quoted philosopher George Santayana who said: "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." And to remember, we must first acknowledge what it is—Genocide.

Tragically, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks. More than 500,000 were deported. It was brutal. It was deliberate. It was an organized campaign and it lasted more than 8 years. We must make certain that we remember.

Now, we must ensure that the world recognizes that Armenian people have remembered, and they have survived and thrived.

Out of the crumbling Soviet Union, the Republic of Armenia was born, and independence was gained. But, independence has not ended the struggle.

To this day, the Turkish government denies that genocide of the Armenian people occurred and denies its own responsibility for the deaths of 1.5 million people.

In response to this revisionist history, the Republic of France passed legislation that set the moral standard for the international community. The French National Assembly unanimously passed a bill that officially recognizes the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey during and after WWI as genocide.

Several nations have since joined in the belief that history should beset straight. Canada, Argentina, Belgium, Lebanon, The Vatican, Uruguay, the European parliament, Russia, Greece, Sweden and France, have authored declarations or decisions confirming that the genocide occurred. As a country, we must join these nations in recognition of this atrocity.